

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1396

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Harding Academy boys' basketball team and Head Coach Kevin Starks upon winning the 2007-2008 TSSAA Division II Class A State Championship.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school athletic teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Harding Academy boys' basketball team is one such estimable team that recently won the 2007-2008 Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division II Class A Boys' Basketball State Tournament on February 29, 2008, at Lipscomb University's Allen Arena; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Kevin Starks, the Harding Academy Lions basketball team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2007-2008 season, establishing an excellent record of twenty-two wins against ten losses on the road to winning the TSSAA Division II Class A Boys' Basketball State Championship; and

WHEREAS, upsetting the heavily favored St. George's Gryphons by a score of 49 to 44 in the semifinals, the Lions advanced to the title matchup and earned a chance to vie against the Tipton-Rosemark Academy Rebels for the state championship; and

WHEREAS, before a crowd clad overwhelmingly in pink, the Lions' lucky color, the Harding Academy squad emerged victorious with a score of 72-68; this great triumph was a test of endurance for the iron-willed Lions, as they sent the Rebels searching for retreat after outscoring St. George's in overtime; and

WHEREAS, this herculean effort was led by the individual performances of Marion Brown, who scored an astounding thirty-five points and rebounded nine times while virtually single-handedly thwarting the Rebels and earning the Division II Class A state tournament MVP

Award, and Tyler Hickman, who netted nine points and nabbed fourteen rebounds to earn a spot on the All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Head Coach Kevin Starks's able leadership, the Lions benefited from the hard work and guidance of Assistant Coaches Cary Daniel, Duncan Campbell, and Clark Collins and Managers Ian Hatley and Matt Anderson; and

WHEREAS, the members of this extraordinary championship team are Sean Adeleye, Hugh Archibald, Kevin Betts, Phillip Branch, Marlon Brown, Drew Chick, Bradley Cobb, Daniel Farrar, Jay Foster, Tyler Hickman, Chris Nunn, Chris Scott, Keilan Stittiams, and Jeremy Williams; and

WHEREAS, displaying great sportsmanship and outstanding character throughout the season, the members of the Harding Academy boys' basketball team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a memorable championship season, but also surely point toward their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of its athletic teams that have succeeded both on the court and in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Head Coach Kevin Starks and the Harding Academy Lions basketball team upon winning the 2007-2008 TSSAA Division II Class A Boys' Basketball State Championship and wish them success in every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.